



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/12/2002

GAIN Report #JA2037

Japan

Solid Wood Products

Record Glulam Production and Imports in 2001 2002

Approved by:

Kevin Latner

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Masaoki Nagahama

Report Highlights:

Japanese glulam imports also grew 9.4% to 593,300 cubic meters while production grew 15.5% to 1,030,100 cubic meters, from the previous year. While Northern European countries have increasingly dominated the Japanese market, in 2001, U.S. imports have dropped almost 25% to a 5 year low.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1], JA

In a historic development, Japanese glulam production in 2001 totaled 1,030,100 cubic meters, up 15.5% from the previous year. Japanese glulam imports also grew 9.4% from the previous year to 593,300 cubic meters, resulting in total distribution of a record 1,623,400 cubic meters in 2001, up 13.2%, from the previous year.

The bulk of Japanese glulam imports were structural stock, which grew 63.8% in 2000 and 12.1% in 2001 from previous years. The table below outlines the last 5 years of glulam imports and domestic production.

Japanese Glulam Wood Production and Imports (Unit: 1,000 cubic meters)					
End use \ Yr.	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Structural: 1/	781.6	622.3	483.7	374.2	385.0
Non-structural: 2/	248.5	269.7	282.8	306.8	370.9
Total Production:	1,030.1	892.0	766.5	681.0	755.9
% Change (Yr. / Yr.)	+ 15.5%	+ 16.4%	+ 12.6%	- 9.9%	+ 5.0%
Total Imports:	<u>593.3</u>	<u>542.3</u>	<u>349.7</u>	<u>208.0</u>	<u>369.6</u>
Structural:	498.3	444.6	271.3	148.9	289.4
Non-Structural:	95.0	97.7	78.4	59.1	80.2
% Change (Yr. / Yr.)	+ 9.4%	+ 55.1%	+ 68.1%	- 43.7%	+ 34.1%
Total Distribution:	1,623.4	1,434.3	1,116.2	888.1	1,125.5
% Change (Yr. / Yr.)	+ 13.2%	+ 28.5%	+ 25.7%	- 19.5%	+ 13.1%

(Source: Japan Laminated Wood Industry Association)

Note: 1/ Products used as load-bearing members of the building structures, such as vertical posts and horizontal joists beams.

2/ Products designed for esthetic appearance in non-structural applications.

Since 1999, when Austria displaced the U.S. as Japan's number one supplier, Northern European countries have increasingly dominated the Japanese market. The U.S. imports dropped almost 25% to a 5 year low. See table below. Demand has been driven by Japan's Housing Quality Assurance Act, which became effective in 2001. The law requires home builders provide a minimum 10-year warranty against defective workmanship. Dried and structurally stable wood products are critically important for home builders to honor their warranty commitment, which has been largely responsible for the remarkable growth of Japanese glulam production and imports.

Japan's Imports of Structural Glulam Products by Year & Country (Unit: Cubic Meters)					
From \ Year	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Austria	84,082	86,305	50,043	17,927	6,092
Germany	93,734	66,822	31,020	10,062	39,232
Finland	83,374	65,125	33,151	12,787	16,041
Sweden	72,056	64,692	39,473	19,640	42,644
U.S.A.	30,305	40,172	42,392	30,390	113,773
Canada	40,476	35,163	24,535	17,424	36,986
Russia	26,213	27,311	26,280	23,630	-
New Zealand	18,958	16,908	11,417	7,807	7,325
China	24,600	16,008	6,944	3,544	4,794
Denmark	14,676	12,435	1,421	138	3,319
Norway	6,112	6,218	317	499	1,047
Netherlands	1,672	3,778	1,133	3,273	8,916
Chile	716	1,067	146	453	2,035
Others	1,365	2,587	2,992	1,384	7,173
Total Volume (% Change)	498,339 (+ 12.1%)	444,591 (+ 63.9%)	271,264 (+ 82.1%)	148,958 (- 48.5%)	289,377 (+ 25.1%)

(Source: Japanese Customs Data / Ministry of Finance.)

End of report.